

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Sun Country Industries/Sun Country de Mexico

New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership

New Mexico MEP Helps Sun Country Industries Fill a Big Order

Client Profile:

Sun Country Industries, a manufacturing supplier to the global aerospace and defense industry, currently works on jet engine and airframe components for clients such as GE, Eclipse Aviation, Boeing, Goodrich and Rolls-Royce. The 57-year-old company employs 130 people at its facility in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Situation:

Sun Country Industries leadership wanted to improve company operations in four key areas: 1) increase on-time delivery; 2) reduce inventory; 3) decrease defects per million; and 4) reduce costs. VP of Operations, Fred Renteria, knew the company needed to complete a lean transformation, but didn't have the internal resources available. After reviewing options and qualifications, Sun Country Industries partnered with New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership (New Mexico MEP) a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance in developing Lean manufacturing approaches.

Solution:

New Mexico conducted Lean manufacturing training sessions with Sun Country Industries staff and developed Value Stream Maps to chart how work was being accomplished. To develop a more efficient workflow, New Mexico MEP recommended equipment be moved, standardized work procedures and the cross-training of employees. The result, a more effective and efficient layout and manufacturing process.

Results:

- * Increased sales by \$4 million.
- * Realized \$2 million in cost savings.
- * Reduced travel distance per part from 13.96 miles to less than 1 mile.
- * Reduced costs by 30 percent.
- * Reduced inventory by 45 percent.
- * Reduced lead time from 3 months to less than 1 month.

Testimonial:

"In the past, we would produce 300 units over a three-month period. Last month we received an urgent call from one of our customers wanting to add an additional 350 units to the monthly order. We were able to deliver all 650 units in 20 days. Before working with New Mexico MEP, that order would have taken us six months. We were also able to reduce our inventory by 45 percent."

Fred Renteria, VP of Operations

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